

REMARKS

This paper is responsive to the Final Office action dated December 9, 2005, and to Advisory Action dated February 27, 2006. Claims 1–43 were examined. Claims 1, 29, 31–33, and 36–37 have been *canceled*. Claims have been rewritten in independent form and dependencies have been adjusted accordingly. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the Examiner's convenience to discuss the claims.

Allowed and Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 14–16, 34–35, and 38–40. Applicant further appreciates the indication that claim 29 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant has *amended* claim 25, from which claim 29 originally depended, to include all of the limitations of claim 29. Dependencies of non-allowed dependent claims have been adjusted to depend from the allowed or rewritten claims. Certain new claims have been added to replicate dependent claims beneath the allowed or rewritten claims.

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 102

Claims 1–8, 11, 13, 18–19, 25–27, 30–33, and 41–43 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,426,422 (hereinafter “Vanden Heuvel”).

Claims 1 and 31–33

Claims 1 and 31–33 have been *canceled*.

Claim 25

Claim 25 has been *amended* to include all the limitations of claim 29, now canceled, previously indicated by the Office as allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicant therefore respectfully requests the Office to withdraw its rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claims 2–8, 11, 13, 18–19, 26–27, 30 and 41–43

Claims 2–8, 11, 13, 18–19, 26–27, 30 and 41–43 have been *amended* to depend, variously, from allowed claims 14 or 15, or from allowable (as amended) claim 25.

Incorporating all the limitations of the allowed claims from which they ultimately depend, claims 2–8, 11, 13, 18–19, 26–27, 30 and 41–43 are for at least this reason themselves allowable, and Applicant respectfully requests the Office to withdraw its rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b).

Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 103

Claims 9–10, 12, 17, 28, and 36–37

Claims 9–10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanden Heuvel in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,690,394 (hereinafter “Harui”). Claims 17 and 36–37 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanden Heuvel. Claim 28 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanden Heuvel in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,556,217 (hereinafter “Makipaa et al.”).

Claims 36–37 have been ***canceled***.

Claims 9–10, 12, and 17 have been ***amended*** to depend from allowed claim 14. Claim 28 has been ***amended*** to depend from claim 25, believed to be allowable as amended. Incorporating all of the limitations of the allowed claims from which they depend, claims 9–10, 12, 17, and 28 are for at least this reason themselves allowable, and Applicant respectfully requests the Office to withdraw its rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Claims 20–24

Claims 20–24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Vanden Heuvel in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,297,945 (hereinafter “Yamamoto”).

Claim 20 has been ***amended*** to incorporate additional limitations found in allowed claim 15. Applicant therefore submits that claim 20, ***as amended***, is in condition for allowance over all art of record, and respectfully requests the Office to withdraw its rejection.


Incorporating all the limitations of allowable (as amended) claim 20 from which they depend, claims 21–24 are for at least this reason themselves allowable, and Applicant respectfully requests the Office to withdraw its rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

Addition of New Claims 44-52


Claims 44-52 have been added to replicate dependent claims beneath allowed claim 15. No new matter has been introduced by these claims, and they are fully supported by the specification as originally filed. Incorporating all the limitations of the allowed claims from which they ultimately depend, claims 44-52 are for at least this reason themselves allowable, and Applicant respectfully requests the Office to issue a Notice to that effect.

Conclusion

In summary, on entry of the present amendment claims 2-13, 17-28, 30, and 41-52 remain in the case. All claims are believed to be allowable over the art of record, and a Notice of Allowance to that effect is respectfully solicited. Nonetheless, if any issues remain that could be more efficiently handled by telephone, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the number listed below.

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Respectfully submitted,


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